

Serial No.: 10/829,034

Attorney Docket No.: 506417.0817

IFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor	:	Gary W. Gage
Serial No.	:	10/829,034
Filing Date	:	April 21, 2004
Title	:	EXPANSION RING FOR MASS TRANSFER COLUMN AND METHOD EMPLOYING SAME
Group/Art Unit	:	3749
Examiner	:	Charles S. Bushey
Confirmation No.	:	7432
Atty. Docket No.	:	506417.0817

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97(b), the references listed below and on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A (Substitute for Form 1449A-B/PTO) are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. Only a copy of the foreign cited document is enclosed.

Submission of these references is not an admission that the references constitute prior art.

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

Date: 11-20-04

Signature: Michele Gillispie

Printed Name: Michele Gillispie

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

U.S. PATENTS

Patent No.	Inventor(s)	Issue Date
5,547,617	Lee et al.	08-20-1996
4,369,150	Harper	01-18-1983
2,889,018	Swan	06-02-1959
2,807,451	Kuhni et al.	09-24-1957

FOREIGN PATENTS

Country	Patent No./Publication No.	Publication Date
France	2,485,143	12-24-1981

This reference relates to a device for sealing the junction between a tray in a column and the inner wall of the column, whereby a seal made of a deformable material is disposed in an L-shaped metallic ring 1 having an outcut. The outer diameter of the metallic ring 1 is greater than the inner diameter of the column, so that when compressed the metallic ring abuts against the inner wall.

OTHER REFERENCES

None.

Applicant respectfully requests that these references be made of record in the above-identified application and considered by the Examiner during prosecution of the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed is patentable over the listed references.

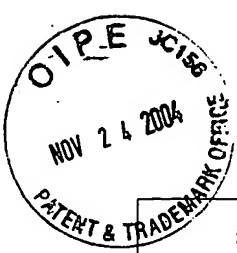
This information disclosure statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d). and before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no fee is due.

Acknowledgment of receipt is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number:	10/829,034
Filing Date:	April 21, 2004
First Named Inventor:	Gage
Group Art Unit:	3749
Examiner Name:	Charles S. Bushéy
Attorney Docket Number:	506417.0817

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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